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CONFIDENTIAL.

(6667.)

S 1328

No. 1.

Sir J. Kirk to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 30.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord, *Sevenoaks, August* 25, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 11th May I left England for the Niger Coast, accompanied by Captain L. R. Arthur, of the Rifle Brigade, in order to carry out the inquiry with which I had been entrusted into matters connected with the recent outrage committed by the people of Brass.

I was fortunate in finding Sir Claude MacDonald at Lagos, and in having him with me during the whole of the time I was on the coast; and I take this occasion of acknowledging the ready manner in which he and his staff gave me every help and assistance in the prosecution of my work. I have equally to acknowledge having had similar facilities afforded me by Mr. Wallace, Agent-General for the Royal Niger Company, and the officers at Akassa.

But for the help thus shown us we should have met with many difficulties and delays, and been put to considerable personal inconvenience, as the ship of war that had been told off to be in attendance proved unfitted for the service.

We landed at Brass on the 6th June, and on the following day Sir Claude MacDonald, accompanied by Captain Gallwey and Vice-Consul Harrison, went to Nimbe to summon the Brass Chiefs, who were awaiting my arrival, to appear at the Government Office on Monday, the 10th June, and to have with them the witnesses they might require.

On the day appointed four principal Chiefs arrived, accompanied by about sixty native witnesses.

I had decided at this preliminary meeting to see the Chiefs in the presence of Sir Claude MacDonald and his staff alone, in order to understand their case, and learn from them what charges would be advanced against the Company before calling upon Mr. Wallace to be present.

The Delegates said they had been sent as the Representatives of the whole body of Chiefs and people of the district. This I had previously ascertained from Sir Claude MacDonald and Mr. Harrison to be the case, and in proof of it the Chiefs gave me a written declaration.

The annexed abstract and accompanying documents will show what took place at the meeting, into which I need not here enter, as the whole will be reviewed later on in stating the results arrived at.

The Chiefs having placed before me their grievances and defined the several charges, I asked Sir Claude MacDonald to allow Captain Gallwey, an officer of experience on the coast in no way personally connected with the Brass district or its recent troubles, to advise and assist the Brass Chiefs in arranging their witnesses into groups so as to simplify the hearing, and generally to act as their friend and advocate on the following day when Mr. Wallace and the officers of the Niger Company would be present.

At the meeting of the 11th June, of which a record of proceedings is inclosed, Sir Claude MacDonald and his staff were again present, also Mr. Wallace and those who had accompanied him from Akassa.

The first difficulty met with was that of interpreting correctly what the native witnesses said. Two of the Chiefs knew a little English, but they were obviously not to be relied upon; the only other possible interpreter was a man equally compromised and interested, but I was compelled to have recourse to his services, there being no other.

At Brass there is no official interpreter, and in the whole service there is not an officer who can speak the native language, which fully accounts for the want of knowledge possessed by the officials of what passes among the people.

After hearing the Chief's case, I asked Mr. Wallace, Agent-General of the Company, to state in the presence of the Brass Chiefs what would be required under the existing Regulations to enable a Brass native to trade legally on the Niger.

Full details of the reply given will be found in the proceedings. I will here only point out that as payment of 150*l.* annually would be the first step, this alone is an amount that would make trading by individual natives impossible, and would of itself practically exclude them from their old markets on the Niger.

All the disabilities under which the Brass people now labour arise, Mr. Wallace contends, from their having been originally placed outside the jurisdiction of the Company, for, had they been included, he says, not only would they have been exempted, like all other natives in the Company's territories from licence taxes, but they would also have been free to trade wherever they pleased, and not restricted to the open trade ports, as they now are.

Having thus ended the hearing of the Brass Chiefs' grievances, I was enabled, through the kindness of Sir Claude MacDonald, to visit Nimbe and Fishtown, the only places attacked by us, and to see the condition in which the people now were.

Fishtown, which we first visited, had been, before its destruction, only a miserable collection of native huts. It is distant in a straight line about 2 miles from the European Settlement, but to be reached only by water through tortuous tidal creeks, the banks of which are lined with mangrove and offer no firm footing on shore. After our naval forces had partially destroyed Nimbe, the capital of the tribes, they burned Fishtown, which, although carefully prepared for defence by strong stockades and a powerful boom constructed across the creek and commanded by cannon, had been abandoned before our force landed.

So lately as 1893, that is less than two years before Akassa was attacked, the Brass population of Fishtown threatened to destroy the European trading settlement and Government station at Brass, which they could easily have done. This was only prevented by the despatch of 200 of the Protectorate force who were telegraphed for, and by the arrival of two of Her Majesty's ships of war.

We found the people now busy rebuilding their huts, and I was much struck with the degraded type of features they generally presented, to be accounted for, no doubt, by their miserable surroundings. One thing was, however, equally remarkable—the large proportion of youths and children present in the village. Their town had in February been entirely destroyed by our naval forces, who burned it to the ground; but although since then the inhabitants had been living elsewhere, they seemed not to be suffering from want, their ordinary food consisting of fish, which they get in the creeks, and of bananas and cassava, which are grown, but only to a very limited extent.

On the 13th June we went up the Brass River to Nimbe, the principal town of the whole district, distant about 30 miles from the sea, and the residence of the Chiefs and the centre of native Government and superstition. The so-called Brass River is not an independent stream, but, in reality, the most eastern mouth of the Niger. Between the Brass on the left and the Forcados on the right, is the Niger Delta proper, cut up by innumerable creeks, which open by many mouths to the sea. Outside the delta of the Niger we have other river systems, all connected, however, by cross creeks.

Leaving the Protectorate yacht where the channel suddenly divides, we proceeded in a steam-launch past Sacrifice Island to the town of Nimbe.

This town consists of two quarters (of which only one now stands), separated from each other by a narrow creek. The quarter which was destroyed is called Ogbolomambri; this had been completely burned to the ground by our naval force before they retired. The other, called Basambri, separated by a narrow creek, still remains intact but for shot holes in the Chiefs' houses. It was from this quarter that the fire from the enemies' stockades was kept up on our naval and Protectorate troops while retreating.

Before the attack all valuable property would seem to have been removed from the town, so that the only damage inflicted by us was the destruction of the wooden buildings and mud huts in the one quarter which alone we occupied, and the loss by the enemy of about twenty-five killed, which so far as I could learn was the total. Such a small loss is

to be accounted for by non-combatants having been removed beforehand, and from the fact that the fighting men were generally well under cover, and their guns protected against rifle fire by heavy stockades.

Looking beyond the immediate neighbourhood of Nimbe, tall forest trees and clumps of cocoa-nut palms could be seen in the distance, sure signs of native habitations and the sites of villages to which the people had for the time retired.

On our return to the yacht we visited Sacrifice Island, interesting as the spot where human sacrifices are still carried out. It was here the victims of the Akassa outrage were taken to be slaughtered, and where the bodies were mutilated in the manner usual with these people when human flesh is intended to be eaten.

Before leaving Brass I had a conversation with Vice-Consul Harrison, the officer in charge of the district, and Mr. Wall, Head of the Customs Department. The former repeated to me what has already been stated as to his position at Brass when the attack took place. He had only just taken over charge, was new to the district, and had been given no warning of danger by the officer he relieved. He had no guard at his disposal, no proper interpreter, and no means of communication. Under these conditions he was helpless, and even had he believed the anonymous warning which he received calling upon him to take immediate steps to prevent what actually happened, he could not have done more than go himself in a canoe to Nimbe, a proceeding not likely to have had much effect. This warning he sent on to Akassa, but so little did he believe it that he never even telegraphed to Bonny or to Lagos, which he would have done had he thought there was the smallest real danger. Mr. Harrison must under the circumstances be held to be free of blame. Mr. Harper Moore, his predecessor, having been previously a servant of the Company well acquainted with the feeling that existed, and for some time in charge at Brass, ought to have been better informed and to have been prepared, since it is now clear that the attack was being planned long beforehand and had been openly threatened.

From Mr. Wall I received information as to Custom-house matters, which showed a want of control over arms in the hands of traders and the great delay that had occurred in applying the prohibitions of the Brussels Act.

On the 15th June we left Brass, and passing through the main creek reached Akassa, where in the absence of a ship of war we became the welcome guests of Mr. Wallace, the Company's Agent-General, as we had been before then of Sir Claude MacDonald at Brass. I was here accompanied by Sir Claude MacDonald and by several of his staff who came to assist at the meeting to be held the following day.

At the inquiry held at Akassa on the 16th June, Sir Claude MacDonald and his staff being present, evidence furnished by Mr. Wallace was heard dealing with the arms question, smuggling, and other matters, and answering some of the statements previously made, a full account of which is given in the inclosed record of proceedings, with copies of documents received by me from Mr. Wallace, also a list of stores plundered or destroyed.

Towards the close of the meeting Mr. Wallace urged that it was right the Brassmen should be compelled to give up the skulls of the Company's servants who had been murdered, and which were still retained as trophies. Sir Claude MacDonald promised that he would do his very best to get these given up if it were possible.

Before the business was closed it was arranged that, in order to remove all doubts as to the limits of the two respective jurisdictions and tariffs on the intermediate creeks, an officer from the two branches of the Protectorate should at once visit the principal creeks between Brass and the Niger, and in the presence of some one from Brass erect marks which would act as provisional boundaries to be respected by all parties pending a final settlement to be come to after my return to Europe. A report of the result arrived at will no doubt be given by Her Majesty's Consul-General and by the officer in charge of the Royal Niger Company at Akassa.

Before quitting Akassa I visited the various factories and machine shops, the scene of the destruction done on the 29th January by the Brass people, and I was shown how the attack was made.

I inclose herewith copy of a Report written by Captain Morgan, the officer in the house at Akassa at the time of the attack, relating what came under his formal notice.

Having thus ended the inquiry at Akassa I proceed to Forcados, where I examined the frontier in the manner that has been already reported, returning to England on the 24th July.

I shall in a separate Report state the results arrived at under the various heads of my instructions, and indicate the remedies that might be applied.

I must, in concluding the present Report, acknowledge the valuable and willing help

rendered me by Captain L. R. Arthur, of the Rifle Brigade, who had been appointed to accompany me and to act as assistant on the Mission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN KIRK.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Special Commission of Inquiry, Niger Territories.

Proceedings.—*1st day, June* 10, 1895.

Present:

Sir John Kirk, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., Her Britannic Majesty's Special Commissioner.
Captain Arthur, Rifle Brigade.

Also—
Major Sir C. M. MacDonald, K.C.M.G., Her Britannic Majesty's Commissioner and Consul-General.
Captain H. L. Gallwey, Vice-Consul, Benin.
Mr. C. E. Harrison, Acting Vice-Consul, Brass.

Also, representing the Brass Chiefs and people, their selection being unanimous, *vide* document attached, marked (A):—

Chief Warri.
" Karemma.
" Nathaniel Hardstone.
" Thomas Okea.

The first two representing Bassambri, and the remaining two representing Nimbe.

N.B.—Bassambri is included in Nimbe, but is on the opposite side of the creek.

Chief Warri acted as spokesman.

THE Special Commissioner opened the proceedings by informing the Chiefs that he had been sent out by Her Majesty to inquire fully into the facts of the late rising; that the Queen and people of England were horrified at the cannibal orgies that had taken place. Any actual damage done could be paid for.

A letter from the Chiefs of Brass to Sir Claude Macdonald was then gone into. This letter was dated the 14th February, 1895.*

The Special Commissioner explained that he wanted to fully understand the meaning of the words as written in that letter.

The following explanation was given:—

We do not mean that actually over 100 men are killed annually by the Niger Company's people. We mean many are killed every year, and we calculate that including our own and other people that over 100 persons have been killed by the Company since the Charter was granted to them and up to the present time.

We do not want, nor expect, certain markets entirely to ourselves. All we now ask is only to be allowed to trade at those markets where we and our fathers used to trade at before the Charter was granted to the Company. We are quite ready and willing to trade alongside white men.

We mention the case of the Company killing two of our men at Akassa after the attack on that place.

Simply as one of the reasons why we killed our prisoners.

We hold to the ill-treating of women and wounding of people by the Company.

The Special Commissioner then requested the Chiefs to state their case.

They handed in the written statement annexed, marked (B), and said they were

* For copy of this letter, see Confidential Print.

prepared to sign it in the name of all the Brass Chiefs and people, which was subsequently done.

The Special Commissioner then read the statement, and said he accepted it as fully explaining their grievances, future wants, and as a plea in justification of their conduct.

The Chiefs next handed in a statement in defence of their cannibalism, which is annexed, marked (C).

The Special Commissioner then requested the Chiefs to explain their meaning of certain passages in their statements.

The Chiefs explained that by "starvation driving a man to insanity" meant that they could not live without trade, that besides having to keep themselves and their families, they were bound to keep their "boys." Also when there is no trade, as has been the case for a long time past, they cannot afford to keep even themselves, much less can they afford to keep their "boys." The consequence is their "boys" go away into the bush with the hope of finding food there. They (the "boys"*) never return, and they can only suppose they have died of starvation. They then said:—

We do not grow our own food with the exception of a few plaintains. Our soil is too poor. We get our yams, &c., and our cattle from the Niger—chiefly from Abo and Onitsha.

We usually live on fish, yams, plaintains, and cassava. We eat very little meat.

Our fathers used to trade as far up the Niger as Idda above Onitsha, and also a great deal in the Assay markets in the Warri branch—but not in Warri itself.

We do not trade in the New Calabar markets, the Niger markets being quite sufficient for us, if we were allowed to trade in them all as our fathers used to do.

Brass and Ijo languages are very similar, so the tribes understand each other.

We get our slaves as a rule from the Ibos, they cost from 10*l.* to 20*l.* each. These slaves rise up, and, if worthy, many become Headmen and Chiefs.

We do not call ourselves Brassmen, but Nimbe.

(The Chiefs handed in a list of their towns, which is annexed and marked D.)

There are many Christians in our country; but many have gone back to their old faith, owing to the oppressions of the Niger Company.

We built both churches, the one at Brass and the other at Nimbe, but we had good trade in those days.

We got our cannon a very long time ago, with the exception of one bought by Chief Warri, two years ago, from a trader in the river, named Jinks. The cannon having been Mr. Jink's property for years. (A letter concerning this cannon is annexed and marked E.) We have very few cannon left, they were all taken or destroyed by the Queen's men when our town was destroyed; the few we have got are very old, chiefly Portuguese ones. We have no machine guns.

The closing of our markets by the Niger Company has cheapened the price of oil, but when we smuggle in oil we have to pay the villagers *en route* "hush money," and so, to us, the oil is expensive. The volume of trade is now very limited. Brass people smuggle in gin and tobacco but not guns.

We have very few rifles, chiefly very old ones, and very little ammunition, and we find great difficulty in getting caps.

The Chiefs then stated that the Company, when they heard the "big man" was being sent out to inquire into affairs, coerced the Ijos by giving them flags and "books," and ordered them to represent themselves as Company's people, otherwise the Company would punish them.

The Company also ordered the Ijos in question to have nothing to do with the Brass people, and were not even to pay them their just debts.

The Special Commissioner then said that the letter of the 14th February from the Chiefs of Brass to Sir Claude MacDonald would be put aside except as regards the tarring of women, and that the written statement (B) would take its place in so far as it concerned the allegations made against the Company.

The Commission then adjourned till to-morrow, the 11th June.

In the meantime, Mr. Wallace, Acting Agent-General of the Niger Company, would be requested to attend to-morrow's sitting, when evidence would be taken upon the several allegations made by the Brass people against the Niger Company.

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* By "boys" is meant the whole household, men, women, and children, both free men and slaves.

(A.)

We, the Undersigned, do hereby declare that we are the chosen representatives of the Brass Chiefs and people, having been selected by general consent to present our case before the Commission.

(Signed) WARRI, his × mark.
KAREMMA, ditto.
THOMAS OKEA, ditto.
NATHANIEL HARDSTONE, ditto.

Witness:
(Signed) CUTHBERT E. HARRISON,
Acting Vice-Consul.

Brass, June 8, 1895.

(B.)

Memorandum.

Case of the Brass Chiefs.

Many years ago our fathers used to make their living by selling slaves to Europeans. This Slave Traffic was stopped by the Queen's Government and a Treaty made in 1856, to the effect that they should discontinue that traffic, and enter into a legitimate one, and that if they did so an allowance called "comey" should be paid them by the traders on all produce brought down from the interior.

This they agreed to; so that from that time to now we have not shipped a single person, but have traded only in palm oil and kernels.

Some time after this Europeans began trading in the Niger. Seeing this we at once complained to the Consul, but with no effect.

In 1878 Consul Hopkins arrived here and offered us the markets from Abo downwards, but we claimed from Onitsha to the sea.

The Consul went away, promising to consult the Government, but unfortunately he died the following year, and nothing was done.

In 1884 Consul Hewitt arrived to renew old Treaties. We brought the subject of the restoration of our markets to us before him, and positively told him we would sign no more Treaties, because no good came of it, until he gave us some assurance that justice would be done us, and that our markets would be given back to us.

In reply, he said he had no power to make this promise without consulting the Government. We refused to sign the Treaty. Then he requested us to sign it only for six months if we would not sign it altogether, and he would try to get us the exclusive use of the Assay markets in the Warri branch.

On this condition we signed a Treaty.

At the end of six months Vice-Consul H. A. White induced us, on the same promise, to extend it for another six months, in order to await the reply of the Government.

While this was going on (1884-85) the French Government sent and asked us to enter into an agreement with it, and offered us large and costly presents, and promised us all sorts of good returns and aid; but we refused, thinking we would be more secure under the English.

In March 1886 Consul Hewitt arrived here with a printed form of Treaty for us to sign in place of the above-mentioned one, and said that the Government had decided that markets could not be divided nor given to any one particularly, that Whitemen and Blackmen might trade equally in all the markets, and that all and every market was to be free to everybody.

Seeing we could not do otherwise, we agreed to free trade. Article VI of this Treaty deals particularly with free trade.

About this time Consul Hewitt came back again, and, to our great surprise, informed us that the Government had granted to the National African Company a Royal Charter on the River Niger, which meant that they had full power to do what they liked in the river, and to impose and receive duties from everybody who wished to go there for the purpose

of trade. We called his called his attention to the fact that our Treaty states that trade was free: how was it then that we were not allowed to go and trade freely at villages the people of whom we, our fathers, and grandfathers had traded with in past times?

The Company which is now known as the Niger Company, has done us many injuries, which were made known to Consul Hewitt in writing; for some time after the Charter was granted they drove us away from our markets in which we and our forefathers had traded for generations, and did not allow us to get in our trust, or trade debts, some of which remain unpaid to this day. Neither will they permit the Ejoh or market people to come down and pay us.

In 1889, Major Macdonald, now our big Consul, came to us, and we told him of all these things, and he promised that he would lay our complaints before the Queen's Government; Consul Hewitt was still in the Rivers.

In 1891, he, Major MacDonald, came again and explained to us that it was the intention of the Queen's Government to send Consuls to these rivers and that we should then have a Consul of our own who would specially look after our interests. He pointed out to us that this could not be done without money, and explained how the money could be raised by means of duty, and asked us whether we consented to pay these duties. At first we refused, because we could get no satisfactory answer about our markets; but eventually we signed, but begged the Major that he would do what he could to get some of our markets back for us. He then appointed a Vice-Consul, Captain MacDonald to the River.

Since then we have seen the Major many times, and he has always told us to be patient, but latterly things have gone from bad to worse, and the markets that we have are quite insufficient to maintain us.

We thoroughly understand that all markets are free, and open to everybody, black and white man alike; and we are quite willing to trade side by side with the white man at those markets. We do not now ask for any exclusive privileges whatever, but only that we may be allowed to trade without molestation at the places we and our fathers have traded in days gone by.

We are willing to pay fair duties: but we cannot understand, however, if all markets are free and open to black and white man alike, why there are many villages or markets in the Niger where neither are allowed to go and trade.

We submit that, if we have to go to Akassa, a distance of nearly 40 miles, to pay our duties, and are only allowed to trade at certain places selected by the Niger Company called "ports of entry," and have to take out trade and spirit licences, and pay a very heavy duty going into the territories and a heavy duty coming out, it is the same thing as if we were forbidden to trade at all.

The Niger Company say, "We (the Company) have to do these things, why not you?"

We can only say that, with our resources, to carry out these Regulations and pay these duties means ruin to us.

The Niger Company are cleverer than we are. We humbly submit that we have a right, confirmed by our Treaty, to go and trade freely in the places we have traded at for all these generations. We are ready to pay to do so, but let us pay a fair duty, and conform to fair Regulations.

The duties and Regulations of the Company means to us ruin; of this there is no doubt.

We do not deny that we have smuggled, but under the circumstances can this be wondered at?

We have suffered many hardships from the Company's Regulations. Our people have been fired upon by the Company's launches, they have been fired upon from the Company's hulks, our canoes have been seized and goods taken, sometimes when engaged in what white men call smuggling, and sometimes when not.

The "chop" canoes coming from the Ejohs have also been stopped.

Within the last few weeks the Niger Company has sent messengers to the Ejohs and other tribes with whom we have always traded and said that any of them who traded with us at all, or who paid us their debts, would be severely punished, and their villages burnt.

We have evidence to prove all this, which we would like to lay before the big man who has been sent by the Queen.

All these unjust things that have been done to us, the many times we have been told to be patient and have been so, and the wrongs which we consider we have suffered are now worse than ever, all these drove us to take the law into our own hands and attack the Company's factories at Akassa.

We know now we have done wrong, and for this wrong we have been severely punished; but we submit that the many unjust oppressions we have borne have been very great, and it is only in self-defence, and with a view to have our wrongs inquired into, that we have done this thing. We have frequently asked the Consuls that have been put over us, from Consul Hewitt to the present time, to tell us in what way we have offended the Queen to cause her to send this trouble on us.

Traders we are, have been, and always will be.

The soil of our country is too poor to cultivate sufficient food for all our people, and so if we do not trade and get food from other tribes we shall suffer great want and misery.

We fervently hope and pray that some arrangements may be arrived at which will enable us to pursue our trade in peace and quietness.

(Signed) WARRI, his × mark.
KAREMMA, ditto.
THOMAS OKEA, ditto.
NATHANIEL HARDSTONE, ditto.

Witnesses:
(Signed) H. L. GALLWEY,
Deputy Commissioner and Vice-Consul,
Benin District.
CUTHBERT E. HARRISON,
Acting Vice-Consul, Brass District.

Brass, June 8, 1895.

(C.)

Statement made by Chiefs after the Meeting of June 10, 1895.

The following is the statement made by the Representative Brass Chiefs in defence of the cannibalism which took place at Nimbe at the end of January 1895:—

They say that at a meeting which was held when it was determined to attack Akassa the question arose whether it would be advisable, should their fetish gods protect them and make the attack successful, to offer up any prisoners they might capture with the usual cannibalistic rites, especially as the fetish priests stated that the epidemic of small-pox, which was then raging throughout the Brass country, would not cease until these human sacrifices had taken place. The Chiefs who profess Christianity, and who are in the minority, headed by Chief Warri, said that if these cannibalistic rites took place they would not assist in the expedition against Akassa; a very stormy discussion followed, and the sacrifice question was allowed to drop without any definite arrangement having been come to.

After the attack on Akassa some sixty prisoners were taken to Nimbe, and an order was issued by Chief Koko, King of the Brass people, at the instigation of the fetish party, to all Chiefs, to deliver up their prisoners. Some of the Christian Chiefs being afraid of the fetish party, which is much the stronger of the two, gave up some of their prisoners, but Chief Warri utterly refused to surrender his, which nearly led to civil war in Nimbe. On the first opportunity the men rescued by the Christian party were sent down to the Consulate, they numbered in all twenty-five.

Cannibalism as a sacrifice to their native gods has been a religious rite with them from time immemorial; ten years ago an epidemic of small-pox broke out and was only stayed by a cannibal sacrifice such as took place on this occasion.

Some years ago the Christian party was much stronger and more powerful than their opponents; many Chiefs who were brought up as Christians have now gone back to fetishism, amongst these King Koko, the reason for this being that they had lost faith in the white man's God, who had allowed them to be oppressed, and their trade, their only means of livelihood, to be taken from them without just cause or reason.

Taken down by me from the four Representative Chiefs of Brass.

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD,
Commissioner and Consul-General.

June 8, 1895.

(D.)

Names of Towns and Villages in the Nimbe District.

(Including the whole known as Brass.)

1. Ogbolomambiri } known as Nimbe.
2. Bassambiri }
3. Okeoama, known as Fishtown.
4. Tuwon.
5. Odiama.
6. Obioku.
7. Diema.
8. Fanhia.
9. Emelesna.
10. Baletiemo.
11. Iqueama.
12. Liaama.
13. Egauelogo.
14 Sabatori.
15. Etiema.
16. Kirupogo.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Record of Proceedings at Brass, June 11, 1895.

Present:

Sir John Kirk, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., Her Britannic Majesty's Special Commissioner.
Captain L. R. Arthur, Rifle Brigade, Private Secretary.

Sir Claude MacDonald, Her Britannic Majesty's Commissioner, Niger Coast Protectorate.
Captain H. L. Gallwey, Vice-Consul, Benin.
Mr. C. E. Harrison, Acting Vice-Consul, Brass.

Mr. W. Wallace, Acting Agent-General, Royal Niger Company.
Dr. Craster, Royal Niger Company.
Captain W. Morgan, Acting Commander, ditto.
Captain McCorquodale, ditto.
Mr. Drew, Private Secretary, ditto.
Mr. Liddard, Shorthand Writer, ditto.

The four Representative Brass Chiefs again attended.

Captain Gallwey conducted the case for the Brass people by request of the Special Commissioner.

Chief J. Spiff, Brass man, appears as Interpreter. He is objected to by Mr. Wallace, but the objection is overruled, as there is no other competent person available.

FIRST CHARGE.

That the Royal Niger Company have taken steps to prevent the Brass men from gathering in their Debts.

First Witness.—Okpayar, native of Ekpetiama, on the right bank of main Niger River, an Ijo man, states—

That the Ijo people told Captain Watson, Royal Niger Company, that they owed

money to Brass men. Captain Watson said that if they went to pay the Brass men they would be punished.

These were old debts partly owed by himself, the witness.

Mr. Wallace stated that it is not the custom of the Royal Niger Company to recognize "trust debts."

Second Witness.—Otobo, of the same place and tribe as the first witness, states—

That he was merely a boy at the time of the controversy mentioned by the first witness, and therefore did not understand the matter.

Second Charge.

Firing on Canoes by the Royal Niger Company.

First Witness.—Otobo, the same man as appeared as witness in the first charge, states—

That he was a boy on the Royal Niger Company's hulk, "Masaba," stationed in the Ekole Creek, under Mr. Thomas, within the last four years.

He has seen canoes shot at if they refused to stop when hailed. This has occurred both by night and day.

Many canoes answered the hail and came up alongside. He saw one Eko person wounded. The canoe was taken. It was empty. He saw one man killed. His name was Abeakuri. The canoe was brought alongside by a boat which fired on the canoe. This took place at night. When the canoe was returned it was Mr. Thomas who found the paddlers. The wounded man was taken home by the Royal Niger Company's people.

This case happened last year.

Second Witness.—Ebeiffar, resident of Sabagrega, partly of the Brass and partly of the Ijo tribes, states—

He was coming to Brass from Sabagrega in a canoe with six people. He was not called upon, but was fired on from the hulk "Masaba." It was at night, and very dark. Two men were wounded, one of them died in the canoe. The other fell into the water, wounded, and was picked up. This latter one died this year of small-pox. This case happened this year.

There was cassava (*i.e.*, food) in the canoe.

The canoe was not caught, but it put back.

The witness was coming to see his brother, who lives at Nimbe. He did not know that he had to pull alongside the hulk.

There were no rifles in the canoe, but six guns. They were all cap guns, but one flint gun.

The witness did not fire back at the hulk.

Mr. Wallace interposed, and said that Sabagrega is one of the Royal Niger Company's most important stations, and its laws are well known there.

Third Witness.—Oronuar, resident of Nimbe, Brass man, states—

That about five years ago he was at the house of Nanki, Chief of Ekowe. He had in his canoe two rifles, one revolver, and cartridges. His canoe was captured with the rifles, &c., and confiscated.

He had not gone to trade, but to talk. His canoe was fired on at night by the Royal Niger Company's black agent.

On being questioned by Mr. Wallace, the witness said that in 1877 he was cook to Mr. Watson, and joined after the firing on the hulk "Masaba."

Fourth Witness.—Obai, resident of Brass, states—

That about two years ago he was wounded in a canoe when on his way from Nimbe to Ekpetyama. When opposite the hulk "Masaba," of the Royal Niger Company, he passed a boat which was keeping watch. This boat fired on him without hailing. He had four boys with him, and was carrying gin.

The witness alone was hit.

There were soldiers looking out in the boat, and the affair happened at night, about 6·45 P.M., when it was dark.

The witness used to be in the employ of the Royal Niger Company, on the steam-ship "Florence."

Dr. Craster examined the wound of the witness, and pronounced it to be caused by a bullet.

Fifth Witness.—Nimia, resident of Nimbe, Brass man, states—

That he is a "boy" of Chief Kari. He was *en route* to Akassa from Nimbe to buy a canoe. He was met by a launch on the Akassa Flats on his canoe with five other "boys." The launch fired on them, and they ran the canoe into the bush. The launch waited at the end of the creek. The witness and his comrades left the canoe and made off to hide. The launch seized the canoe the next day. In the canoe there were four and a-half cases of gin and cloth. There were no arms in the canoe.

This happened one evening after dark about six months ago.

The witness was called to from the launch, but he did not understand. He did not ever fire on the troops nor on the launch.

Captain Morgan said he thought that this was very likely a case well known to him, and that the canoe refused to answer when hailed; also that the canoe fired on the launch.

Dr. Craster examined this witness' wound, and pronounced that it was caused by a bullet.

THIRD CHARGE.

Seizing Canoes by the Royal Niger Company.

First Witness.—Kondor, resident of Nimbe, a Brass man states—

That he was trading at Egebri, which is in the creek below the hulk "Masaba" on the left bank of the Niger River, near the market. He was in a canoe, and another canoe belonging to Ekbela was there. A launch came in and commenced firing at the canoes. The canoes were abandoned, and the oil and the kernels which the witness had in his canoe were upset into the water. This happened last year.

The Egebri people gave the oil, &c., which was picked up to the occupants of the launch, but nothing was returned. The launch was not fighting the town.

The witness did not know why the launch was after him. He had taken up gin to buy oil, &c.

The witness had one cap-gun, and the "boys" jumped over with the other cap guns. They had no rifles in the canoe; they did not fire at the launch; the canoe belonged to Karema, the master of the witness. The launch had a machine-gun.

The witness did not report himself anywhere to pay duty.

During the evidence of this witness, Chief Warri asked how the Brass people were to know which side of the boundary Egeberi was.

Second Witness.—Iowe, resident of Egebri, an Ijo man.

Corroborates the above evidence, and states that it happened last year.

The canoes did not fire.

The launch commenced firing with a machine-gun.

He had been buying oil at Egebri with gin, tobacco, and cloth.

The Brass men did not fire at the launch at all, nor raised a gun. The occupants of the launch demanded the oil which was upset, or else the town would be smashed.

Third Witness.—Numindi, a Brass man states—

That he was in a war canoe of Ekbela, his master, and he had gone to trade at Egebri with tobacco, and gin for oil and kernels.

A launch came up and fired at them. He and his people jumped into the water.

The launch towed the canoes away.

Nobody at all fired on the launch.

It happened by day. The witness did not see who was in the launch.

The canoe has not been returned.

There were three cap-guns and one Snider rifle in the canoe.

When questioned concerning big guns being in the canoe, the witness says, as the Royal Niger Company's people took the canoe, they will know about big guns being on it.

Fourth Witness.—Pomona, resident of Nimbe, a Brass man, states—

That he is a "boy" of Alagoa.

He was trading at Amassama, and when he heard a launch was coming to fire the town, he hid his canoe as he was afraid. This happened about eight months ago. The launch took off his canoe and another one belonging to Nathaniel Hardstone. His canoe has not been returned.

The canoe was the property of Mr. Quail.

There were two puncheons of oil and some kernels in the canoe.

The witness ran away.

The launch did not fire at him. The oil was bought with gin.

He took away the only gun he had; it was a cap gun.

There were no cartridges in the canoe, as there was no rifle.

The witness has made no attempt to get back the canoe.

Fourth Charge.

Tarring Women.

First Witness.—Akure, resident of Ekpetyama, Ijo woman states—

That when on her way to Otowa from Ekpetyama she was hailed at the opening of the Ekole creek by the hulk.

She refused at first to answer, but at last, being frightened, she went up.

At the time she was *enceinte.*

She was outraged on board the hulk by the clerk.

She was offered a small present of biscuit and two heads of tobacco. She refused to accept them at first, but finally consented to do so on threat of being killed. She threw the presents overboard from the canoe.

This took place about two years ago.

She had a miscarriage.

It was the clerk in charge who outraged her. He was a light black man.

She is the wife of Bebei; he is not a "boy," but Chief of Ekpetyama.

She did not report to any one that she had been outraged.

Second Witness.—Akassa Bebei states—

That she formerly lived at Akassa, but now lives at Nimbe. Her master is a Brass man.

She was mistress to a clerk at Akassa, being sent there by her mistress from Nimbe.

When the clerk was going home he wished her to accompany him, but Captain Christian (the European beachmaster at Akassa) sent to the captain of the ship, and had her sent back. Captain Christian then took her into a store, and coal-tarred her when stripped.

There was another white man present.

After this she went back to Akassa.

She did not report the matter to any one as "The white man had done it."

Captain Christian ordered some Kroo boys to tar her. It was done all over her.

Mr. Wallace said Captain Christian left nearly three years ago, and is now at Sierra Leone.

Third Witness.—Gboribo, a Brass man, states—

That the woman was tarred some time ago, but is not sure when. He was a fisherman.

He saw the woman going home naked and tarred.

Captain Christian was the beachmaster.

He did not see whether the woman was crying or not.

(This closes the evidence brought forward by the Brass people.)

Captain Gallwey then informed the Special Commissioner that, although there were many more witnesses who could [?], he considered the Brass Chiefs had proved the several allegations made by them against the Royal Niger Company in their "case;" and that, therefore, no more witnesses would be called.

Chief Warri, one of the Brass Representatives, makes a statement and says:—

That some of the people who appeared to-day as witnesses come from towns in the territory of the Royal Niger Company, and are afraid of being punished by the Royal Niger Company's officials for appearing before the Special Commission to-day.

The Special Commissioner, on the word of Mr. Wallace, assures Chief Warri that they need have no fear.

Chief Warri proceeds to say that, with regard to the 7 puncheons of oil called on by the Royal Niger Company, the officials of the Company gave the people of Egebri 3 kegs of powder to defend themselves against the Brass men should the latter come to attack them.

Also, on Chief Warri complaining that the officials of the Royal Niger Company will not allow the Brass people who are on the former's territories to come down, it is explained to him that if he applies in a proper manner, through Her Majesty's Commissioner for the Niger Coast Protectorate, these Brass people will be returned, should it be their wish to do so.

Mr. Wallace then being questioned by the Special Commissioner as regards the duties, &c., a Brass man would be liable to, as well as the penalties for disregarding the same, who might desire to trade legitimately in the Royal Niger Company's territories, states that, in the first place, he would have to take out a general licence, value 50*l.*; next he would be required to pay 100*l.* for a spirit licence, and in addition he would have to pay 10*l.* for each separate trading port he may wish to trade at, this 10*l.* being the price of a licence for each separate port; then, in conforming to the above rules, a Brass man must proceed to the Customs offices of the Company at Akassa or Ekole to declare the goods that he is bringing into the Company's territories; and, similarly, when leaving, he must visit Akassa or Ekole to pay export duty on the produce he has purchased and is taking out; he is then free to proceed by any creek or river he may wish.

All "chop" canoes pass in and out free, but they must reply if they are hailed.

The penalty for smuggling or trading without a licence is 500*l.*

Mr. Wallace states no slaves have been captured in transit in the Lower Niger lately.

The Special Commissioner felt perfectly satisfied at the interpretation of Chief J. Spiff.

Brass, Niger Coast Protectorate, June 11, 1895.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Inquiry held by Sir John Kirk, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., &c., Her Britannic Majesty's Commissioner, at Akassa, June 15, 1895.

Present:

Sir John Kirk.
Captain L. R. Arthur.

Sir Claude MacDonald.
Captain Gallwey.
Mr. Harrison.
Captain Searle.

Mr. Wallace.
Mr. Bedford.
Dr. Craster.
Captain Morgan.
Mr. Drew.
Mr. McTaggart.

FIRST charge brought by the Brass men dealt with was that of one of the Company's launches firing first at the town of Egeberi.

Witness S. R. Savage, brought up by Mr. Wallace to prove that this was not so.

S. R. Savage, native of Lagos, clerk in charge of Ekowe Station, was asked what he knew concerning the case in question.

Witness said that on the 21st June, 1894, I left Ekowe in the launch "Borgu," in company with Mr. Wood, District Agent for the Delta, for Enowarri, to settle a palaver between these two towns. On passing Egeberi we saw two Brass canoes alongside that place, and as soon as the Brass men sighted the launch they took their rifles and ran ashore. Mr. Wood told him to hail these people and tell them not to be afraid. There was no reply to this, and the Brass men commenced to fire from the bank. Firing was not commenced from the launch then. Four men were wounded on board and later on fire was opened from the launch over the heads of the people on shore.

Captain Gallwey.—How was the gun sighted, and how could you tell it was being fired over the heads of people on shore?—*A.* I could not say how it was sighted; I did not fire it.

Sir J. Kirk.—Who gave the order to fire over the heads of people on shore?—*A.* The officer on board.

Consul-General.—Was anyone killed or wounded on shore?—*A.* No.

Consul-General.—Who told you this?—*A.* The King of the town of Egeberi.

Consul-General.—Is this the Egeberi, the place spoken of as being in the loop creek on the left bank?

Mr. Bedford.—Yes, the same place.

Mr. Wallace.—What happened when the firing ceased?—*A.* The launch had some difficulty in turning to get out of the creek, and in doing so her paddle-wheels fouled one of the canoes and capsized it.

Sir J. Kirk.—Did you get the oil contained in this canoe?—*A.* Yes, afterwards.

Sir J. Kirk.—Can Captain Morgan give any account of what has been seized from smugglers at any time?

Captain Morgan.—All the books on this subject having been lost, I can only give roughly what was confiscated, but in once instance forty-six cases of gin were seized in a canoe, and in several other instances lesser quantities of gin were seized.

Sir J. Kirk.—Were there any cases where rifles were seized, and of what description?

Captain Morgan.—Yes. Snider rifles were taken from many of these canoes; I should say they were there for the canoe's defence.

Sir. J. Kirk.—Was there any powder or other contraband goods in these canoes?

Captain Morgan.—No powder. Their cargoes were almost entirely composed of gin.

Mr. Bedford, on being asked if he had any evidence respecting smuggling canoes, said that he had known of many cases, but that when he had come across gin being smuggled into the territories it was in hundreds of cases, not as in Captain Morgan's seizures of a few.

Sir J. Kirk.—To prevent this smuggling how many creeks are there to guard?

Mr. Bedford.—I would say six.

Consul-General.—If these were blocked could not the natives still communicate through the mangrove creeks?

Mr. Bedford.—I do not think so.

Sir J. Kirk.—How many small or large creeks that a small canoe could get through are there between Akassa and Ekole?

Mr. Bedford.—I should say about eight.

Sir J. Kirk.—Can it be shown that rifles have been smuggled into the territories for the purposes of trade?

Mr. Wallace.—Yes.

Nangi, a Chief of Ekowe, was called as a witness on this subject.

Mr. Wallace.—How many rifles have you got?—*A.* Five.

Mr. Wallace.—How many are there in your town?—*A.* Thirty.

Mr. Wallace.—Where did you get them from?—*A.* The Brass men sold them to me.

Mr. Wallace.—How long is it since you purchased the last rifle?—*A.* Two native years (*i.e.*, equal to twenty months).

Mr. Wallace.—How long is it since you purchased cartridges for these rifles?—*A.* A year ago.

Mr. Wallace.—How many did you purchase?—*A.* 100 rifle cartridges, and 300 fowling-piece cartridges.

Mr. Wallace.—Have you any fowling-pieces?—*A.* One.

Mr. Wallace.—A breech-loader?—*A.* Yes.

Mr. Wallace.—Do you know whether Brass men sell rifles to other villages?—*A.* Yes.

Sir J. Kirk.—Have you seen this yourself?—*A.* I have both seen and heard it.

Mr. Wallace.—A large or small quantity?—*A.* Sometimes a case.

Sir J. Kirk.—Do people smuggle up rifles in cases?—*A.* Yes. Twenty in a case.

Mr. Wallace here said that he was not only endeavouring to prove that the Brass men are well armed, but they are sufficiently so to be able to sell a large quantity of arms.

Consul-General said that he should think the number of rifles in the territories now was phenomenal, and brought forward the fact that a squad of Bonny men fighting at Ashantee,* were allowed to take their rifles back to Bonny after the war was over.

Captain Morgan.—Rifles will not last in Africa such a number of years as that.

Consul-General.—Yes; if they are looked after.

Mr. Wallace here asked the Commissioner whether it was necessary to bring further proof of the smuggling of rifles into the territories.

Sir J. Kirk.—I think not. Have you any specimens of the rifles seized?

Mr. Wallace.—Yes.

Consul-General.—Do you wish to prove that rifles and cartridges have been imported since the commencement of my Administration?

Mr. Wallace.—Yes.

Consul-General—Is it not possible that the Company have been more strict in preventing the smuggling of rifles during the last few years, and have thus discovered more?

Mr. Wallace.—I do not attribute the number discovered to this cause.

Four Snider rifles were produced for examination by Sir John Kirk, and the place pointed out on the map where they were purchased, Ingafoi.†

Sir J. Kirk.—When were these rifles purchased?

Mr. Palmer.—Last November, by a man from Ingafoi, and later by one from this man.

Sir J. Kirk.—Is this the man who offered to purchase another 100 rifles?

Mr. Palmer.—Yes.

Dadi, a Hausa Fulari, native of Kapera, was here called as the man who had purchased these rifles.

Mr. Wallace.—What do you do for a living?—*A.* I am a hunter of elephants.

Mr. Wallace.—Where did you get the four rifles from now produced?—*A.* A long time ago, from Calabar.

Mr. Wallace.—How many months?—*A.* A year ago.

Consul-General.—Does he mean Old Calabar?—*A.* No; New Calabar, close to Okrika, at a place called Onari.

Sir J. Kirk.—Does.he mean the place indicated on the map about 30 miles east of Oguta Lake?

Mr. Wallace.—Yes.

Mr. Wallace to Witness.—How many rifles did you purchase when you got the four now here?—*A.* Forty.

Mr. Wallace.—Could you have obtained any more had you had the money?—*A.* I could have purchased more.

Consul-General.—This man is only proving what I knew and could prove before.

Sir J. Kirk.—Yes, but it is important the smuggling of rifles should be fully proved.

Mr. Wallace.—Could you buy cartridges in packages or cases?—*A.* In cases or packages.

Sir J. Kirk.—Who sold these rifles to you?—*A.* A native trader of Calabar, Esheofun.

Mr. Wallace.—Do you know who this man was?—*A.* He belongs to Amachre, a Calabar Chief's family.

Sir J. Kirk.—Are these cartridges (produced) those that you bought?—*A.* I bought them at the same time as the rifles.

Mr. Wallace.—How many did you buy?—*A.* Two hundred.

Sir J. Kirk.—Where there plenty for sale when you bought these?—*A.* Yes, plenty.

Consul-General.—What did you pay for one of these rifles?—*A.* One tusk of ivory for twenty-six rifles.

Consul-General.—What was this ivory worth?—*A.* It was a 60-lb. tusk (about 30*l.*).

Sir J. Kirk.—You, Mr. Wallace, as a merchant, can perhaps tell me what these rifles would be worth.

Mr. Wallace.—I cannot say.

* As British Allies in the Ashantee War.

† About 30 miles to east of Oguta Lake.

Sir J. Kirk.—I do not see how they can afford to sell them for about 1*l.* each.

Mr. Bedford said that he thought the traders would not be selling-off their stocks of rifles unless they could obtain further supplies.

Consul-General.—I do not think the Calabar traders would wish to keep a stock of rifles; the up-country tribes might.

Sir J. Kirk.—This witness, Dadi, has given valuable information, and fixed the fact that rifles are being bought and sold.

With regard to the allegation by Brass men that the Ejoh tribes do not wish for the Company's rule.

Sir J. Kirk.—I am of opinion that the Brass men referred to places situated above the Ekole Creek. Have you any witnesses from places above there?

Mr. Bedford produced statements made by Chiefs of several towns in the regions mentioned which he had taken down some three weeks ago. All of these going to refute the Brass men's argument.

Consul-General.—Have not a large number of these villages been burnt down for participation with Brass?

Mr. Wallace to Mr. Bedford.—Please state what towns have been destroyed?

Mr. Bedford.—Kiama, lower portion of Sabagreia, Tombia, and Permoberi.

Nangi, a Chief of Ekowe, called on the same subject.

Sir J. Kirk.—Did the Brass men ask you to assist in their movement against the Company?—*A.* Yes, Koko, of Brass, sent a demijohn of rum, and asked me to kill all the Company's people at Ekowe, and to call on the surrounding towns to assist. I gave the rum to the Station Agent.

Sir J. Kirk.—When did this happen?—*A.* Three days after the Akassa war.

Otobo, a Chief of Otuwho was then called.

Sir J. Kirk.—Do the Brass men come up to trade at your village?—*A.* Yes, they have traded there.

Sir J. Kirk.—Do your townspeople intermarry with Brass?—*A.* No, because Brass men are slaves.

Sir J. Kirk.—Do you give your freeborn daughters in marriage to Brass men?—*A.* No.

Captain Gallwey.—Do Brass men do this with your people?—*A.* No.

Sir J. Kirk.—Have you been to Nimbe?—*A.* Yes.

Sir J. Kirk.—Did you stay long?—*A.* Two or three days.

Sir J. Kirk.—Did you go to trade?—*A.* I went on a friendly visit.

Consul-General.—Do children of your town never intermarry with children of Brass?—*A.* No; because if such a thing were to take place, all the surrounding Ejoh tribes would look upon us with scorn, Brass men being slaves, and Ejohs free.

Sir J. Kirk.—Who is your friend at Nimbe?—*A.* Okuku.

Mr. Wallace.—Do Brass men ever buy slaves from his town?—*A.* No, they do not do so at Otuwho, but I cannot speak for the other towns.

Mr. Wallace, respecting the loss of revenue to the Company, here said that all the Brass imports and exports should be the Company's.

Sir J. Kirk.—Has no Brass man ever paid duties or taken out a license?

Mr. Bedford—No.

Sir J. Kirk.—Have they ever cleared at Ekole?

Mr. Bedford—No.

Sir J. Kirk.—Could they do so if they wished?

Mr. Bedford.—Yes.

Mr. Bedford stated that the Brass Chief Spiff came over to Akassa two or three years ago, and said he would go wherever he wished in the territories, and would take out no permit or license. This he did.

Sir J. Kirk.—Had he dutiable articles in his canoe at the time?

Mr. Bedford.—No, only rifles.

Sir J. Kirk.—The point is admitted by all the Brass men that the markets are situated within the Company's territory.

Mr. Wallace.—Here asked for the return of the skulls of the Company's employees murdered on the 29th January.

Consul-Goneral.—I saw about forty skulls at Nimbe during the time I was there when it was being destroyed, but omitted bringing these skulls away from the place. I will make an attempt to get these if they are wanted, and will do my utmost in the matter, as I think they should be regained.

Sir J. Kirk.—Do you know how many Brassmen were killed?

Mr. Bedford.—We could question the Delta natives on the subject.

Sir J. Kirk.—Where did the Kroo boys come from who were killed—French colonies or others?

Mr. Wallace.—From all along the Kroo coast.

Sir J. Kirk.—There has been a sort of idea at home that European influence was at work behind the Brass men when they attacked Akassa.

Mr. Wallace.—Many Brass men have been taught trades by the Company, and these men would have sufficient knowledge to carry out what was done.

Respecting the alleged case of rape on a native woman at the "Masaba."

Akebofa, a native of Ekole, was called to give evidence upon this subject.

Mr. Wallace.—Do you remember, or have you ever heard, of a woman named Ecoreh, of Opiteamia, being ill-used by a clerk on the "Masaba"?—*A.* No.

Mr. Wallace.—Were you likely to have heard had such a thing happened?—*A.* Yes, because the town of Ekole and the hulk "Masaba" are so close.

Mr. Bedford.—Would not such a thing be the talk of the country?—*A.* Yes, all the surrounding towns would know about it.

Sir J. Kirk.—What routine is kept up for the prevention of smuggling?

Captain Morgan here described fully to Sir J. Kirk, with the aid of a map, the whole system of the Company's preventive service and the methods adopted for carrying it into effect.

Consul-General.—Has the hulk "Masaba" ever been in charge of a native?

Mr. Wallace.—She has been in charge of a Sierra Leone clerk, a foreigner, for some years.

Consul-General.—Would he have the same power to fire upon smuggling canoes as Captain Morgan?

Mr. Wallace.—Certainly.

Consul-General.—Have you ever had a sergeant of constabulary in charge of a watch party, or guard, for preventive purposes, and had he power to fire on a canoe if it refused to stop when called upon?

Mr. Wallace.—Yes.

Mr. Wallace contended that the Brass people are now in a better position and stronger than ever; that although the town was destroyed their power remains.

Sir C. Macdonald said that by the order of the Government at home, the Brass people were to be punished, not destroyed.

Mr. Wallace here placed another point before the Commissioner, which was that the Brass men are now stronger than they ever were before, and further trouble with them may arise at any moment.

Consul-General admitted that the disarmament of the Brass men was a large order, and could not be easily undertaken.

Mr. Wallace thought, nevertheless, that it ought to be done at once.

Also that the Company would have to commence the Delta patrol again.

Sir J. Kirk.—Of course, that will be more necessary now than before.

Captain Morgan.—The Company will also require to keep a large constabulary detachment in the Delta, and these men were wanted elsewhere.

Mr. Wallace.—Can a decision be arrived at as to the boundary on the left bank?

Consul-General.—Suggest an amicable arrangement be arrived at by the Representatives of both Administrations, laying down together some provisional marks to be taken as the boundary for the time being.

Sir J. Kirk.—I think this would be a good arrangement.

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Documents received by Sir J. Kirk from Mr. Wallace.

Mr. Wallace to Sir J. Kirk.

Akassa, June 8, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to hand you herewith a few documents respecting the smuggling of rifles into these territories which may prove useful to you.

I have numerous witnesses here at present to prove the smuggling of rifles into these territories, as well as samples of the smuggled arms and ammunition purchased at a Niger Coast Protectorate market in May.

I have also the honour to inclose three letters respecting the boundary-line, which, in my estimation, is an impossible one, as it ought to be drawn along one of the main water-ways, the same as at Forcados.

You will note that Sir C. MacDonald says (Inclosure marked "A") that he cannot be responsible for the peaceful behaviour of the Brass men, thus clearly showing that the Protectorate had not, even after the so-called effectual punishment, any hold or control over these people, the simple reason being that their rifles had not been delivered up.

Conquered people yield, but these people had not been conquered, and there will be no security for traders on the lower waters of the Delta, where the Brass men also terrorise the Ejoh tribes, until they are disarmed, which should be insisted upon, and could be easily carried out during the next few months with the rise of the Niger.

A few well-protected launches patrolling the creeks would soon convince the Brass men that the Government was in earnest over this vital matter. The Niger Government could easily carry this out, but, in my opinion, this would not be fair, seeing that the arms have been supplied through the Niger Coast Protectorate.

The patrolling should commence not later than the end of August.

I beg to inclose an approximate list of the people killed and wounded at Akassa on the 29th January.

I have also the honour to inclose an extract from my letter to the Council of the 17th April, and bearing on your Commission.

If I may be allowed to suggest the best plan for your seeing the principal part of the Delta, I would advocate your leaving here in the "Nupe," steam-yacht, a fairly comfortable boat, as the Consul-General can assure you, passing up the main stream of the Niger, where all the creeks can be noted, to Agberi, and thence to Gana Gana and Forcados. This would occupy some two days and a-half.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. WALLACE,
Acting Agent-General.

Sir C. MacDonald to Mr. Wallace.

Old Calabar, March 30, 1895.

Sir,

When I last had the pleasure of meeting you, you informed me, in the course of a private conversation, that you had "certain information that rifles had been openly sold at New Calabar, and cartridges imported into the Niger Coast Protectorate in sardine boxes" since the establishment of the present Administration.

As I am about to institute stringent inquiries into this matter, I shall deem it a great favour if you would kindly give me the sources of your information. I am aware that your remark was made in the course of a private conversation, but you will recognize that it is of vital importance to all of us to put down with the utmost severity the importation of fire-arms into West African territories, and, unless you assist me in this by giving me such information as lies in your power, I shall most probably not be able to bring the offender to justice.

Needless to say I shall not mention the source of my information if you do not wish me to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD,
Commissioner and Consul-General.

Mr. Wallace to Sir C. MacDonald.

Akassa, April 2, 1895.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letters Nos. 8 and 9, date the 30th and 31st March respectively.

In reply to the former communication respecting the inportation of rifles into West African possessions, and the Niger Coast Protectorate especially, I may inform you that my reason for stating I considered the traders of New Calabar the worst offenders in this respect was that over and over again we have made seizures of Snider rifles and cartridges in the Oguta and Abo districts, and, even up to the present time, rifles are being smuggled into that portion of the Niger territories, the common report being that these arms come from New Calabar.

Again, rifles are being brought into these territories from Umutchuku, which is situated somewhere on the Cross River.

I now find that the report respecting cartridges being smuggled in sardine tins emanated from a source I cannot now trace about the time of the Nana palaver in Benin.

If samples of the Snider rifles I have referred to will be of any use to you in tracing the smugglers I will endeavour to procure one or two for you.

I may also inform you that percussion cap guns in considerable quantities are also being smuggled into these territories from the Niger Coast Protectorate.

If in the course of conversation on this subject I used the words "openly sold at New Calabar," I beg to withdraw the word "openly," as I hardly think the traders would dare to do this.

Every possible assistance I can afford you towards the clearing up of this most serious matter I shall be at all times only too pleased to place at your disposal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. WALLACE,
Acting Agent-General.

Sir C. MacDonald to Mr. Wallace.

Brass, April 11, 1895.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 2nd April, 1895, and, in reply, beg to protest most strongly against your statement that "even up to the present time rifles are being smuggled into the Oguta and Abo districts of the Niger Company's territories, the common report being that these arms come from New Calabar."

The trade in arms in the territories now governed by the Royal Niger Company was quite as brisk in those territories as in the adjoining rivers up till and for some little time after the granting of the Charter (1886).

The importation of rifled weapons into this Protectorate was forbidden by Vice-Consul Johnston in 1887, but was not carried into effective operation owing to inadequate means until the inauguration of the present Administration in 1891, and I can safely assert that since that date no rifled weapon of any kind has been imported into this Protectorate except under such guarantees as are required by the Brussels Act. The store of rifles and arms generally in the territories governed by the Royal Niger Company does not fall very far short of the store in the Protectorate, for the trade in arms in both territories was largely carried on for at least fifty years before the Charter was granted to the Royal Niger Company, or before the present Administration started in the Niger Coast Protectorate.

You say again, "rifles are brought into these territories from Umutchuku, on the Cross River;" there is no place of that name on the Cross River. This, however, is a detail; but I repeat no rifled weapon has been imported into the Old Calabar or any other district since 1891.

That there were thousands of rifles in the Protectorate before 1891, and are now, I am well aware, and that there were, and are now, in proportion to the area, an almost equal quantity in the Niger territories I am equally well aware. That these rifles may and are passed from one territory to another is quite possible.

You are right in saying that the rumour about cartridges being smuggled in sardine tins emanated about the time of the Nana palaver in Benin. On my arrival in that district last November I was informed by the European traders that cartridges had been so smuggled into the Protectorate from the Niger territories at Gana Gana, but I treated it as one of the numerous untruths for which West Africa is so famous, and dismissed it from my mind, and I could not believe that what you mentioned to me was the same old untruth resuscitated.

You say "that over and over again we have made seizures of Snider rifles and cartridges in the Oguta and Abo districts," and that you "considered the traders of New Calabar the worst offenders."

If this is the case, why not report the matter to me officially at the time of the seizure, so that I may take immediate action in the matter. This is the first official intimation I have received that seizures of arms had been made in the Niger territories which had been smuggled through from this Protectorate.

It is my most earnest wish to put down this traffic in arms. By immediately reporting a case of suspected smuggling you would be assisting me very materially.

My instructions are to remain on the friendliest terms with the officials and Administration of the Company, but I submit that the unfounded accusations made in your letter are not conducive to fostering friendly feelings between the two Administrations.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD,
Commissioner and Consul-General.

Mr. Wallace to Sir C. MacDonald.

Akassa, May 21, 1895.

Sir,

With reference to your communication dated the 11th April, I have the honour to state as follows :—

1. That I must take exception to the general tone of it, which infers that I insinuated or made statements derogatory to the character of the Niger Coast Administration. I can assure you that nothing was farther from my thoughts, my own wish and my instructions being to co-operate and assist the Administration over which you have the honour to preside.

My information was not voluntary, as you had specially requested I should give you, if at all possible, a few facts regarding the smuggling of rifled arms into these territories, and any suggestion as to where the culprits were to be found; this I was able to do. You had also stated that, without our aid, it would be almost impossible for you to discover the smugglers in question.

I was quite in accord with you when you said, "At present, if importers complied outwardly with the Regulations that was about all that could be done, unless a large number of searchers were kept." Again you say, "Why did we not advise you when the seizures were made?" To this I have to reply that I did not think such advice necessary, any more than I should think of advising you regarding the immense quantities of spirits smuggled into these territories, being under the impression that you were equally cognisant of both facts.

2. You state in your letter of the 22nd April, "The trade in arms in the territories now governed by the Royal Niger Company was quite as brisk in these territories as in the adjoining rivers up till, and for some time after, the granting of the Charter in 1886."

I beg to state that this is an utter misconception of the truth; as, from 1878, and farther back if necessary, I can conclusively prove that, from Forcados to the Nun branch of the Niger River, no rifled arms of any description have entered these territories for trade purposes. The reason is obvious: the traders in the Niger dared not sell arms of precision, as being so small a body they had themselves to defend in the event of any trouble arising, while traders in the Oil Rivers could do so with impunity, always having Her Majesty's gun-boats within call.

I emphatically and unhesitatingly assert that all rifles now in these territories have been imported from the Oil Rivers, and are still coming into the Niger territories from the Niger Coast Protectorate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. WALLACE,
Acting Agent-General.

Mr. Dampier to Mr. Wallace.

Diplomatic Station, Ijara District, May 3, 1895.

Dear Sir,

I beg to lay before you the following information :—

Arms and ammunition of all kinds are now being imported into the Niger territories viâ Old Calabar and the Cross Rivers. To prove this statement, I have sent into the interior markets to buy a specimen of every kind of rifle that is sold in the Ibo Country, which will be forwarded to head-quarters immediately on arrival.

We are informed by the natives, principally Ukah people, that the side-lock French lever rifle is being sold in great numbers by a Swedish or foreign firm at Old Calabar

or in the Cross Rivers; also revolvers of a varied assortment are being sold by the same firm.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. DAMPIER,
Diplomatic Agent.

This is in reply to a letter addressed to the Council by the Diplomatic Agent of the Upper River before he had heard of the Brass attack on Akassa on the 29th January.

Royal Niger Company to Mr. Palmer.

Surrey House, Victoria Embankment, London,

April 19, 1895.

Sir,

The vitally important matter which you refer to in your last paragraph, of rifles imported from the Niger Coast Protectorate, has for some time been having the serious consideration of the Governor and Council, who are making urgent representations to Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

Yours 6th February.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY MORLEY, *Secretary.*

Mr. Palmer to Mr. Wallace.

Royal Niger Company, Utshi, May 22, 1895.

Sir,

I hasten to forward you a revolver with thirty-two cartridges for same, bought at Bendo market by an Uinuphuku man called Ajere Dorgu, whom I sent specially for the purchase of both Snider rifles and revolvers. He brought back four of the former, which I am keeping back on account of your having taken four down yourself. I am still expecting my messengers from New Calabar way, when I hope to be able to give you a satisfactory Report. But this will show that traffic n these dangerous weapons is still going on to a large extent. Trade at Oguta is all right again.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ISAAC I. PALMER.

(A.)

Sir C. MacDonald to Mr. Wallace.

Brass, April 19, 1895.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have been authorized to reopen trade in this river, and I propose doing so from the 20th instant.

I have also been informed by telegraph that Sir John Kirk, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., has been appointed to conduct the investigation relative to the recent outbreak, and also to inquire into the alleged grievances of the Brass men. The Commissioner leaves England almost immediately, I think; therefore you will agree with me that the making of further Treaties at the present time in the immediate vicinity of the provisional boundary-line is only calculated to upset the native mind and lead to possible disturbances. If such Treaties have recently been made, or are about to be made, I cannot (as I promised you the other day) be responsible for the peaceful behaviour of the Brass men.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD,
Commissioner and Consul-General.

(B.)

Mr. Wallace to Sir C. MacDonald.

Akassa, April 20, 1895.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your communication, dated the 19th instant, and I have to thank you for the information conveyed therein respecting the reopening of trade at Brass from the 20th instant, and the expected arrival of Sir John Kirk, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

I earnestly trust that the Brass men have been warned that we still exercise our rights respecting the importation of dutiabie articles into these Territories.

We have no intention of making, nor have we made, any Treaties during the past two years in the immediate vicinity of the provisional boundary-line mentioned in your letters.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. WALLACE,

Acting Agent-General.

(C.)

Sir C. MacDonald to Mr. Wallace.

Old Calabar, April 22, 1895.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge your letters, dated the 20th April, in which you state that you "earnestly trust that the Brass men have been warned that we still exercise our rights respecting the importation of dutiable articles into the Territories."

In reply, I beg to inform you that on Saturday I visited Nimbe, and had a meeting of several hours' duration with all the Chiefs of Brass. I informed them that trade would be opened on this day (21st), but that on no account were they to trade or go near the Niger River.

I also informed them that my launches would be constantly patrolling the Ekole and other creeks in the vicinity, and that, should any dispute arise with the market people, they were immediately to report it to the Consulate or to any one of the Consular officers who would be on one of the launches. Any resort to force would be most severely punished, and would of course delay indefinitely the question of markets which they are so anxious to have settled.

On your side, I hope you will be so good as to give orders to your Excise officers that should they by any chance see a Brass canoe in Niger waters they should at once report the matter to this Consulate through yourself, or to one of the launches should it be in the vicinity, and not have recourse to violent measures. I say this because the boundary is at present a line drawn on a map, and geographically it is hard to say where the said boundary is exactly situated, and also because I am extremely anxious that matters should remain quiet until the arrival of the Commissioner.

The Brass men distinctly understand that they are not to go inside the 3-mile limit of the left bank of the Niger River.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD,

Commissioner and Consul-General.

Approximate List of Persons Killed and Wounded, January 29, 1895.

J. A. D. Wise, printer	Killed.
J. C. F. Branche, clerk	,,
D. C. Thompson, clerk	,,
J. F. T. Enos, clerk	,,
Joseph Tookner, carpenter	,,
Jacob Annum, cook	,,
Romeo, steward	,,
Four wounded constabulary men in hospital	,,
One boy, native of Lokoja	,,
Three prisoners	,,
Nine Kroomen	Killed at Akassa.
*Forty-seven Kroomen	Killed at Brass, *vide* advices from Consul-General.
Charley Barclay, washerman	Wounded.
J. F. Churcher, clerk	,,
P. C. Paittoo, clerk	,,
J. K. Dadzie, clerk	,,
Three Kroomen..	,,
Total killed	71
,, wounded	7

Akassa, May 24, 1895.

Extract from Letter sent to Council, April 17, 1895.

Having heard that the Consul-General was removing his troops from Brass I went across there in the "Nupe" and had an interview with him. I informed him that my reason for seeing him on the subject was that the Brass men not being disarmed of their rifles we had still to keep a large force protecting our stations, and until this disarmament did take place I was afraid to remove the troops.

He informed me it was perfectly correct that no rifles had been handed over and that it was impossible to get them, in fact he stated "that one might as well ask for their wives as their rifles." He said the Senior Naval Officer concurred with him in this view and offered to introduce me to learn from that officer this was so.

He informed me he had been up to Nimbe, accompanied by his wife and staff, and had held a meeting there with the King and Chiefs, when he talked very seriously to them concerning the enormity of their offence. Also that if he had any more trouble with them he would come again and level every village they possessed. The Chiefs told him that they had no desire to fight the Queen, but that they could fight the Niger Company. He then, or a few days later, fined them a sum of 10*l.* for every Royal Niger Company's servant they had killed, and calculated the number from the private parts found fastened on the trees on Sacrifice Island, and which he had himself counted. The Brass men begged for this fine to be reduced by half, but were refused. When the sum is paid trade is to be reopened, and this is by order of the Foreign Office. I said, on hearing this, that the idea must have emanated from the Liverpool merchants, but the Consul-General said no; it was at his own instigation that the instructions to open trade had been cabled out. He openly advocated the Brass men's cause, stating that his position demanded this.

He said he would guarantee no further concerted action was taken by the Brass men against the Company, and this guarantee would last until the decision of the Commission that had been appointed was given. I asked if the name of the Commissioner was yet known, and he said yes, but refused to give it me, and afterwards stated "that if a Commission was not appointed the Foreign Office would be going back on their word."

When this conversation concluded I cabled the leading points to you, in spite of the Consul-General's assurance that the Foreign Office knew everything and it naturally followed that you did. He finally informed me that, from the instructions he had been receiving, he could almost follow what I had cabled to yourselves. However, he said he could not blame me for this as it was only business.

As I had heard rumours of the natives at New Calabar being in a state of suppressed excitement and that a rising might take place there at any moment I asked the Consul-

* See Commissioner's telegram No. 13 of March 30 : states, 43 killed at Nimbe, 25 released.

General if this was correct, and was told by him that the report was unfounded, he having only returned from New Calabar twelve hours previously. Had he informed me otherwise it would have necessitated our still further augmenting the force at Oguta Referring to the reports of a rising at Old Calabar he said that was merely a recurrence of the old feuds between the Chiefs which he would be able to settle on his arrival there.

The Consul-General was very disconcerted on my informing him of our opening a large depôt at Forcados, and from the questions he put and the opinions he wished to draw from me it was quite apparent his representations to Her Majesty's Government are that the administration of these territories should be taken over.

Mr. Wallace to Sir J. Kirk.

Sir, *Akassa, June* 13, 1895.

IN accordance with your request, I have the honour to bring before you a few facts regarding our charges against the Brass men and complaints against the Niger Coast Protectorate Government for your consideration :—

1. Regarding the smuggling by Brass men, if this has not already been sufficiently proved by the evidence laid before you during your inquiry at Brass, we can supply you with ample proof that it exists.

Next, as regards the smuggling of rifles, I trust to be able to prove to your satisfaction that the Brass men have smuggled into the Niger territories, and sold to the Ejohs, quantities of rifles, cartridges, and cap-guns.

Likewise, that the whole country surrounding Oguta and the Cross River is being flooded at the present moment with rifles, revolvers, cap-guns, and cartridges.

Also, that the illicit trade in these arms is assuming alarming proportions.

2. Respecting the loss the revenues of this Company sustain through the existence of this smuggling it is impossible to give accurate figures, but the most simple manner of arriving at an approximate valuation would be to base the calculation upon the exports and imports recorded in the books of the Niger Coast Protectorate Custom-house at Brass; seven-eighths of the total there arrived at, I contend, should have passed through the Akassa Custom-house.

Of course the Niger Coast Protectorate officials may object to the claim of seven-eighths of the total exports, but I think it is practically acknowledged the whole of the Brass trade comes from the Niger territories.

3. I can prove to you that the Brass natives attacked, pillaged, and partly destroyed the Company's depôt at Akassa on the morning of the 29th January, 1895.

4. The Brass men declare that the Ejoh tribes in the Niger Delta are antagonistic to this Company's rule. I will call upon the Chiefs of many of these towns to prove the contrary; also that the Brass men have tyrannized them for many generations, and that they would willingly see the Brass power broken.

5. I beg to request that you will demand the delivery from the Brassmen of the skulls of this Company's employés who were massacred at Akassa on the 29th January, 1895.

My reasons for this request will, I think, be perfectly obvious to you.

6. The Brass men having committed one of the worst crimes against civilization, having murdered and eaten some seventy-five men and destroyed a large unarmed station, looting and destroying property to the value of many thousands of pounds, are calmly acquitted after the payment of a 500*l.* fine, this amount being arrived at by a calculation of the private parts of the massacred employés I have mentioned found nailed to trees on Sacrifice Island, and the bombardment of their capital of Nimbe, from which place the British forces retired under fire. Then the farce, for I can call it nothing else, regarding the Foreign Office instructions to disarm these Brass men was enacted.

They refused to surrender their arms, and the Chiefs declined to come in when called upon by the Consul-General, after which he, in my opinion, compromised the situation by vising these Chiefs in person to arrange preliminaries for a cessation of hostilities.

I maintain that the Brass men to-day are as strong, well armed, and more inclined to give trouble, owing to their recent success when they invaded these territories, than ever they were before, and I likewise maintain that for the pacification and safety of the country the disarmament of the Brass men should at once be proceeded with.

A few months from now when the waters of the Niger have receded from the creeks, it will be too late, or in any event treble the difficulty will be experienced, in carrying into effect this essential action.

Had official warning been given to the Niger officials by the Niger Coast Protectorate, the attack made by the Brass men on the 29th January would not have been so successful, and perhaps would not have taken place.

I may here state that Vice-Consul Moore-Harper, who was in charge at Brass a short time before this attack occurred, was an avowed enemy of the Niger Government, having openly declared that opportunity offering he would take advantage of it to hurt the Niger Administration. Also that he openly countenanced the Brass smuggling, and boasted of it. This I can prove with European witnesses. I would ask why was this man placed in touch with this Company's frontier, first on the western boundary in Warri, and later on the eastern boundary in Brass.

Brass being essentially part and parcel of the Niger Territories, I assert a great error was made in including it in the Niger Coast Protectorate, and that if this is rectified, and Brass placed under the Niger Government, after the disarmament is carried into effect, the present troubles will vanish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. WALLACE,
Acting Agent-General.

Statement.

AT a meeting held at Akassa, Niger Territories, we, the Chiefs and Headmen of Amassama, Ondawarri, Akombei, Angiama, Poulabogua, Awakorogar, Oyomor, Oporomo, Opoutowarri, Ekebiri, and Inowarri, assembled together in Council, do of our own free will state as follows:—

1. That the Brass men for a long time have done their utmost to put us against the Company, and have sent us presents of gin, &c., for this purpose.

2. Some months ago they sent to ask us to assist them in attacking and sacking Akassa and other stations, telling us that all the white men and their friends, even supposing them to be Ejohs, employed by the Company, and our brothers must be killed.

Any one who refused to join the attack on the Company's stations must die.

3. We accepted the presents of the Brass men that were sent with this message, as we are in continued dread of them on account of their strength in war materials and canoes, and because they either eat or sell all the people they capture who refuse to join them when called upon by them to do.

4. We did not assist in any way on the attack or pillaging of Akassa.

5. The Brassmen trade principally in gin and rum, and the Company do not do so. The Company only pay (when the stations have it) a small proportion in spirits. We have asked the trading agents on many occasions to pay gin in the same manner and proportion as the Brass men do, and have been refused.

6. The Company will not give us trust, and the Brass men will and are still doing so.

7. If the Company will protect us against the Brass people, we do not wish to have any further dealing with them in future.

8. We acknowledge the Treaties which we made with the Company, and which we shall keep.

For Amassama—
(Signed) DOUTEMEH, his × mark.
EKIFAH, ditto.

For Ondawarri—
(Signed) KOBOH, ditto.
KOLABAH, ditto.

For Akombri—
(Signed) BABALUAH, ditto.
EGORI, ditto.

For Angiama—
(Signed) OSULAH, ditto.
LAMFAH, ditto.

For Poulabouga—
(Signed) AKALU, ditto.
BENE, ditto.

For Awakorogar—
(Signed) AGBERI, ditto.
UMBU, ditto.

For Ovomor—
(Signed) UBAKIE, ditto.
BILLIGEE, ditto.

For Oporomo—
(Signed) ABADIGIRI, ditto.
BISHI, ditto.

For Opoutowarri—
(Signed) LOCHI, ditto.
EKERUH, ditto.

For Ekebiri—
(Signed) BESAH, ditto.
TEPOLOWAI, ditto.

For Inowarri—
(Signed) ATTEH, ditto.
ADOH, ditto.

Taken before me at Akassa, this 14th day of May, 1895.
(Signed) E. A. BEDFORD,
Senior Executive Officer, Niger Territories.

Witnesses to the marks of the above-named Chiefs and Headmen, and to the signature of Mr. E. A. Bedford :—
(Signed) WILL. LISTER.
F. H. S. HATTON, *Captain*,
4/ Lincolnshire Regiment.
W. C. HEAWARD.

Mr. Wallace to Sir J. Kirk.

Akassa, June 10, 1895.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith statistics bearing upon the amount of produce the Brass men may possibly say we have diverted from their markets to our stations.

From this you will gather the quantity, even if they had purchased it, is inconsiderable compared with the exaggerated reports of what it is stated they have been deprived of.

I cannot give you statistics further back than 1887, but the stations of Sabagreia and Agberi were open before the granting of the Charter in 1886.

The kernel trade was then in its infancy, and the Brass men can have no cause for complaint on that point, as the Company have done more towards the development of this trade than they have. The amount of kernels purchased by the Company in 1887 was 52 tons, and in 1894, 300 tons. Again, to take the oil trade, the Company in 1887 purchased 428 casks, or 285 tons ; and in 1894, 375 casks, or 250 tons.

Taking the total tonnage for 1887 and 1894, and comparing them, the former shows 337 tons and the latter 550 tons, or a total increase of 213 tons, which is entirely composed of kernels, and the same period shows a decrease in the purchases of palm-oil, the staple article of Brass trade.

Should the Brass men claim a right to the produce markets on the Forcados branch—as well as to those on the main Niger—which would, of course, be ridiculous, I can supply you with statistics respecting the trade there should you require them.

With reference to the document you asked me for showing the amount of damage and loss sustained by the Company at Akassa during the attack by the Brass men, I will do my utmost to have this ready for you by the end of this week. As regards the prices of various articles the list will necessarily be incomplete and will have to be finished in London, as we only have in our books here the prices of articles intended for barter or sale.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. WALLACE,
Acting Agent-General.

PRODUCE Purchased in the Delta District, 1887 to 1894.

Stations.	1887.		1888.		1889.		1890.		1891.		1892.		1893.		1894.	
	Oil.	Kernels.	Oil.	Kernels.	Oil.	Kernels.	Oil.	Kernels.	Oil.	Kernels.	Oil.	Kernels.	Oil.	Kernels.	Oil.	Kernels.
	Casks.	Tons.	Casks.	Tons.	Casks.	Tons.	Casks.	Tons.	Casks.	Tons.	Casks.	Tons.	Casks.	Tons.	Casks.	Tons.
Ekowe	Not opened until 1889.				58	39½	268¼	135¼	153	59¾	171	96¼	105¾	152	84	58¾
Ekole	Opened 1888.		9	9¾	41	89¼	50	160	154	92¼			Closed.			
Sabagreia	293	7½	362	130	336	307¼	295	342½	448	183	465¼	297	328¼	295	278¼	204
Agberi	135	45	56	256½	40	35	42	187½	2½	18	50¼	105¼	25½	106¼	13	38
	428	52½	427	396¼	475	471	655¼	825¼	757½	353	686½	498½	459½	553¼	375¼	300¾

The above figures can be verified by reference to the signed stock sheets in London.

(Signed) W. WALLACE, *Acting Agent-General.*

Akassa, June 10, 1895.

October 1895. Oct. 1895. TS Selected Foreign Office Files on Africa. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom). Nineteenth Century Collections Online. Web. 29 Apr. 2016.

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